



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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### **Sigmon Coal Company Receives Excellence in Reforestation Award**

**Keokee, VA** – Sigmon Coal Company was recently recognized by the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) with an award for excellence in reforestation on an abandoned mine land project near Keokee, in Lee County. Through a no-cost agreement with the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (DMME), Sigmon eliminated over 10,000 feet of highwall on an abandoned mine land project. Excess soil and rock from an adjacent Sigmon surface coal mine was used to eliminate and reclaim the abandoned highwall at no cost to Virginia's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program.

DMME Division of Mined Land Reclamation Director Bradley "Butch" Lambert noted that without the benefit of the no-cost agreement and Sigmon's efforts, the nearly two miles of abandoned highwall may never have been reclaimed under the AML Program due to its lower priority status. "State/federal AML programs are required to give first priority to AML problems that threaten public health and safety," said Lambert. "The use of the no-cost agreement on this project is a true win-win situation because it prevented the excess material generated by mining from having to be placed in a valley fill while reclaiming an AML site that would most likely never have been funded."

Sigmon used forestry reclamation practices to reclaim the AML highwall project, and in 2005 hosted a special Arbor Day celebration at the site. Through its involvement with ARRI on the AML project, Sigmon has also implemented the forestry reclamation approach on its adjacent surface mining permit.

The DMME also recognized David Robinson of Sigmon Coal for individual excellence in reclamation. Through remining and reclamation of abandoned mine lands, Robinson has demonstrated innovations in reclamation as Project Manager for Sigmon Coal.

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David Robinson and employees of Sigmon Coal accept the award from Dan Barney and Bradley C. Lambert, Director of the Division of Mined Land Reclamation.